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Inventory
for
Manuscript Collection
MS-459

Captain Cornelius A. Davis Papers

Inclusive dates 1874-1877

by
Tracy Lamaestra
Edited by Nathan R. Lipfert

April 2011

Number of boxes: ½
Accession # 2006.087.01

A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

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Abstract

Davis, Cornelius A., *Captain* (b 1847 –d 1935)
Papers, 1874-1877
½ box
Ship captain from Somerset, Massachusetts.
Ledger book and day book relating to Captain Cornelius Davis and his command of the *Carrie S. Hart* (Three-mast schooner). Books contain records of all vessel expenses and income, with particular attention paid to the accounts of individual seamen. Collection also contains partial typed transcripts of the contents of the books.
Bequeathed by Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in 2006.
MS-459, Accession # 2006.087.01
Finding aid in repository; folder and item level control.
Added Entries—Persons
Parker, W. J. Lewis, *Captain*
Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels)
Carrie S. Hart (Three-mast schooner)
Added entries—key terms
Ship captains
Shipping
Schooners

Acquisition

The papers of Captain Cornelius A. Davis were bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in November and December 2006.

Provenance

Capt. Lewis Parker picked up many of his maritime papers through dealers, auctions, estate sales or relatives of past maritime figures. Nevertheless, I cannot find any documentation on how he acquired these papers other than they were part of his maritime collection that he bequeathed to the museum. He also copied primary sources.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research.

Physical Condition

Other than the usual surface dirt and minor tears, the manuscripts in this collection are in good condition. Overall, the papers of Captain Cornelius A. Davis are in good condition.

Biographical Notes

Captain Cornelius A. Davis was born in Somerset, Massachusetts, in 1847. This is where he also resided. Captain Davis married Ellen Fannie Boss in Somerset in 1873. They had six children: Mamie L., Joseph N., Harold B., Clara L., Alma Albot, and Frances Davis. Captain Davis was a master mariner. He served as captain aboard the *William P. Hood* (Three-mast schooner), *Carrie S. Hart* (Three-mast schooner), *Clara Davis* (Four-mast schooner), *Governor Ames* (Five-mast schooner), *Hope Sherwood* (Four-mast schooner) and *Charles E. Wilbur* (Four-mast schooner). He may have served on other vessels also. He died, also in Somerset, in 1935.

Scope and Content Notes

The Captain Cornelius A. Davis papers consist of a ledger (account) book and a day book relating to Captain Cornelius Davis and his command of the *Carrie S. Hart* (Three-mast schooner). The books contain records of all vessel expenses and income, with particular attention paid to the accounts of individual seamen. Collection also contains partial typed transcripts, believed to be done by the donor, of the contents of the books. Documented ports of call include New York, Pawtucket, Baltimore, Providence, Fall River, Key West, Somerset, Havana, Santa Marta (COL), Boston, Aspinwall and Georgetown (DC) in 1874. The ledger documents gross earnings, accounts, expenses, hospital money and freight from June 4, 1874 to December 29, 1876. The wages and expenses of cooks, stewards, seamen and first and second mates are documented here, but most of these are not included in the transcriptions.

Box#	Folder#	
1	1	Day Book (Expenses), 1874-1877
	2	Daybook—partial transcription, 1874
	3	Ledger (Expenses and income), 1874-1877
	4	Ledger—partial transcription, 1874-187